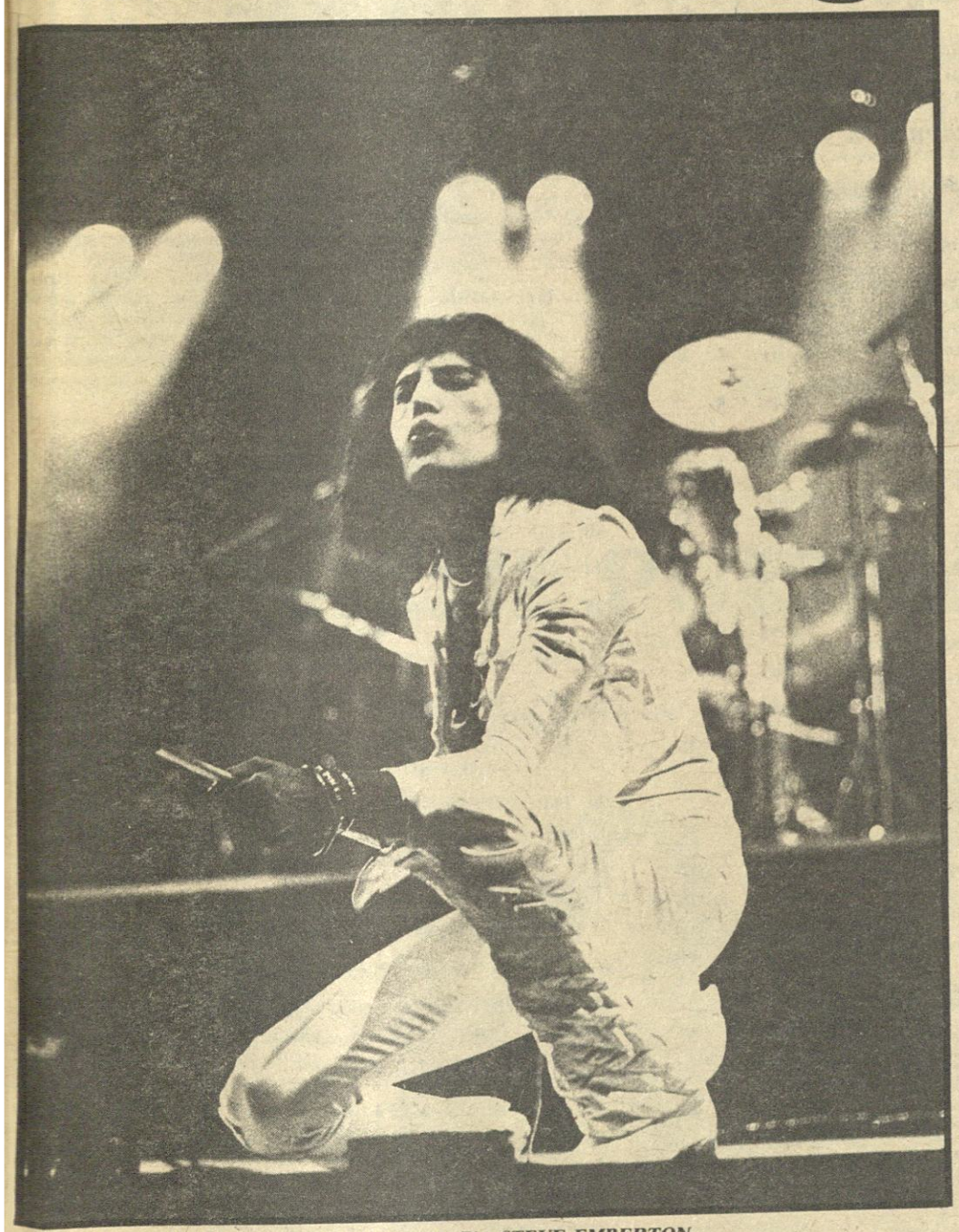
Elton, Queen, Connolly for Edinburgh festival



QUEEN'S Freddie Mercury: Edinburgh concert. Pic: STEVE EMBERTON

ELTON JOHN, Queen and Billy Connolly are just three of the name acts who have been confirmed for The Edinburgh Festival Of Popular Music, an event that will coincide with the Edinburgh Festival.

The man who masterminded the whole deal, Mr. John Reid, recently took over the lease of the Edinburgh Playhouse Theatre (capacity 3,000) and the Festival is his first venture there.

Queen will open the event, appearing on August 20 and 21. John Miles and Murray Head are billed for August 25. Richie Blackmore's Rainbow booked for September 4; New Seekers for September 5; Billy Connolly, September 9 and 10.

On September 11 there's a matinee for Mud; Van Der Graaf Generator headline September 14; Spike Milligan will narrate the *Snowgoose* on September 16 and Elton John appears on September 17.

It will be Queen's first British appearance this year and they are expected to preview a new stage show. Elton John will play a completely acoustic set — just him and piano, no band. Tickets for both Queen and Elton will be by postal application only. Details to be announced soon.

We understand there's a possibility that Kiki Dee may be added to the festival although this was not confirmed at the time of going to press.

Connolly tour

BILLY CONNOLLY currently touring America with Elton John is to undertake a 12-city tour of Britain taking in areas he has never previously visited and including Banff, famous as the place that booed him off stage.

Full details: Banff Town Hall (September 1); Perth City Hall (2); Montrose Town Hall (3); Carnoostie Beach Hall (4); Kirkaldy, Adam Smith Centre (5); Carlisle, Market Hall (7); Glasgow Apollo (8); Edinburgh Playhouse (9 and 10); Leeds Grand Opera House (12); Wolverhampton, Civic Hall (13); Cardiff Capitol (14); and Dunfermline Carnegie Hall (16) (two shows).

Immediately after the tour Connolly returns to America for his own headline tour